

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

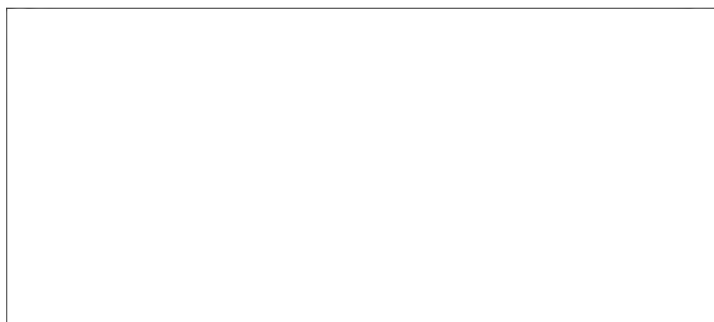
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21 MAY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

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c. [redacted] Ambassador Alphand, acting on instructions, told us that France sees the situation as "completely modified" from that envisaged by the Geneva settlement and that a new conference would be needed. It could be limited, he said, to the situation caused by the rightist coup in Vientiane and the fighting which ensued.

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d. Moscow seems to have decided against any further effort to try to restore Souvanna's coalition government, and will probably respond favorably to De Gualle's initiative as the best way to forestall Western military intervention and restrain the North Vietnamese.

(Cont'd)

e. Indeed, the Soviets now seem ready to write Souvanna off completely. The Polish ICC delegation reportedly no longer considers him prime minister. The Polish view is that the regime has completely disintegrated and cannot be reconstituted.

f. Under the circumstances, the Poles have suspended participation in the ICC and are calling their delegation home for "consultations."

g. The Soviet diplomatic contingent in Vientiane, we understand, is also getting ready to pull out.

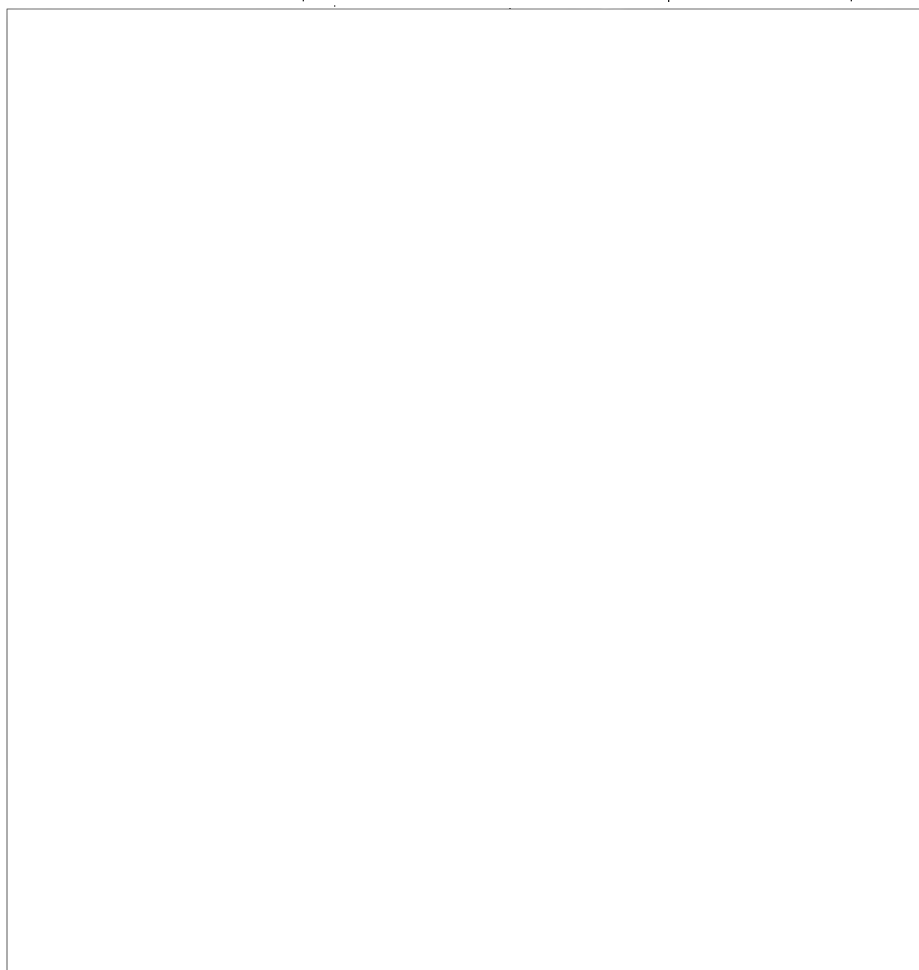
h. Sihanouk has already called for a Geneva conference to consider the whole range of Indochina problems, including, especially, his own. The Soviets, the Chinese, and the North Vietnamese have seconded his motion, and the French, despite what Couve and Alphand say, might also be willing to broaden the agenda.

i. In Laos itself, the military situation remains much the same. The neutralists continue to withdraw westward to new defensive positions, but no significant engagement has been reported.

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2. North Vietnam

a. The North Vietnamese are pushing ahead with construction on routes leading to the southern part of the country.

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c. Recent photography shows extensive construction activity south of Hanoi. The Ham Rong bridge, which can carry both rail and road traffic and which provides a major north-south link between Hanoi and Vinh, has finally been completed. Construction is in progress on several bridges and on parts of the rail bed south of Vinh to the Demilitarized Zone.

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3. North Vietnam -
South Vietnam

a. "Owing to neutrality of Cambodia and Laos, our base areas can be expanded."

b. So says a recently translated Viet Cong document found on a Viet Cong officer who was captured last December

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c. The documents in which this statement appeared are basically a set of notes used in political indoctrination. Taken as a whole, they give an insight into Viet Cong strategic aims and objectives.



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4. Cambodia

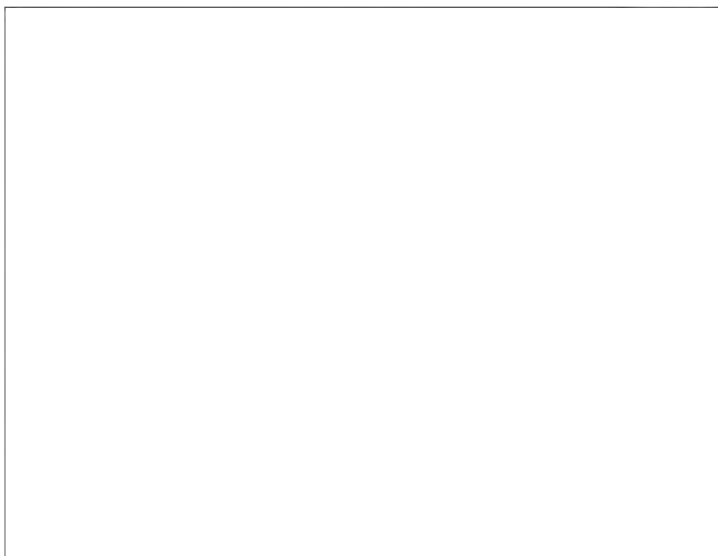
a. Another South Vietnamese foray into Cambodia apparently occurred on Monday



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5. Maphilindo Talks

a. Philippine special emissary Lopez is still trying to get a three-way summit on the tracks.

b. He arrived in Djakarta yesterday, not optimistic, with Tunku Rahman's latest terms. Essentially these are that Sukarno must agree in principle to withdraw his guerrillas and some actual withdrawals must be accomplished and verified by the Thais before the Maphilindo foreign ministers can meet in a preparatory session.

c. In his first meeting with Lopez, Sukarno adopted a conciliatory attitude. He agreed in principle to the withdrawal of troops and to an initial withdrawal before a summit to be verified by Thai officials.

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NOTES

- A. British Guiana Racial violence and arson have spread to the point where the British governor is about to ask Jagan's authorization to declare a state of emergency. The unrest has the native police force fully extended, and an emergency decree would allow deployment of the 600 British troops now in the colony.
- B. Zanzibar Soviet instructors are reported still training the Zanzibar "army" with the idea apparently of displacing the Tanganyikan police now on the island as soon as possible.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST



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